

# SUPERFUND

## Fact Sheet

### PALERMO WELLFIELD Tumwater, Washington



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

March 2003

## Palermo Superfund site gets a checkup

### *EPA plans "five-year review" to evaluate cleanup progress*

#### What is a Five-Year Review?

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) performs regular checkups, called five-year reviews, on certain Superfund sites. The reviews are an opportunity for EPA to make sure the cleanup continues to protect people and the environment. They are also a chance for you to tell EPA about any concerns you have about the site.

EPA considers three basic questions in a five-year review:

- Is the cleanup working as well as expected?
- Have any of the technical guidelines used in designing the cleanup changed?
- Is there any other new information that should be considered?

*The aeration lagoon at the foot of "M" Street is part of a system designed to clean up groundwater.*



#### What happens after the review?

The team will prepare a report that includes background about the site and cleanup, describes the review, and explains the results. Citizens on the mailing list will be notified when the review is done, including how to get copies of the report. If needed, EPA will take additional measures to ensure the site is still safe.

We will continue to do a review every five years until groundwater contamination meets EPA cleanup goals. However, if you see any problems or things that concern you, don't wait for the five-year review – let EPA know right away.

#### You can get involved!

We welcome your participation during our review. If you would like to give us feedback or meet with EPA staff, please contact Bob Kievit, 360-753-9014, email [kievit.bob@epa.gov](mailto:kievit.bob@epa.gov).

#### How can I help?

As someone near to the site, you may know things that can help the review team decide if the site is still safe. Here are some examples of things to tell EPA about:

- Unusual activities such as dumping, vandalism or trespassing;
- Buildings or land around the site being used in new ways;
- Unusual odors, standing water in the crawl space under your home, impacts on plants or animals;
- Ways the cleanup has helped the area.

## Background

The Palermo Wellfield is located just east of Interstate 5 near the intersection of Trosper Road and Capitol Boulevard in Tumwater, Washington. The area has six drinking water wells that provide up to 50% of the drinking water for the City of Tumwater.

In 1993, routine sampling detected trichloroethylene (TCE), a solvent commonly used for metal degreasing and dry cleaning, in three of the wells. EPA investigations revealed that the TCE, as well as another industrial solvent called tetrachloroethylene (PCE), came from several businesses in the nearby commercial area.

Since the cleanup began, EPA has removed contaminated soil from a dry cleaning business, built a water treatment system at the city's wellfield, and built a subdrain and lagoon system to control groundwater in the Palermo neighborhood.

EPA has turned over most of the operation and maintenance activities associated with the cleanup to the Washington Department of Ecology and the City of Tumwater.

## For more information

You can review documents about the site cleanup during regular business hours at:

### **Tumwater Public Library**

7023 New Market Street  
Tumwater, WA

### **EPA Washington Operations Office**

300 Desmond Drive SE, Suite #102  
Lacey, WA

If you have questions, please contact:

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**Charles Bert**, EPA Public Involvement Coordinator  
(360) 753-8073; email: [bert.charles@epa.gov](mailto:bert.charles@epa.gov)

For TTY users: Please call the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 and give the operator Charles Bert's phone number listed above.

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